

Store
Pig Alley Block Study
412 Hurt Street
Petersburg
Virginia

HABS
VA
27-PET,
23A-

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

PIG ALLEY BLOCK STUDY:

412 HURT STREET

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Location: 412 Hurt Street, Petersburg, Virginia

Present Owner: Mrs. Winifred S. Mann Harrison, P. O. Box 296,
Greenville, North Carolina

Present Occupant: Joseph Winslow

Present Use: Private Residence

Statement of Significance: This building, constructed c. 1834-1835, is part of a village complex of workers' houses--of which this was probably the store. The complex was built for workers in the many flour and cotton mills which were located 500 feet north along the Appomattox River. This building is interesting since its form is a derivation of similar forms which were used in Colonial houses in Tidewater Virginia.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: c. 1834-1835 (Landbooks 1834 and 1835, Handwritten bound manuscripts in the Clerk's Office of Hustings Court, Petersburg.)
2. Architect: Unknown.
3. Original and subsequent owners: Deed references for the building follow. Deed and Will Books are in the Clerk's Office of Hustings Court at Petersburg.

1832 Deed July 16, 1832 recorded in
Book 9 page 45
D. McKenzie
Sarah C. McKenzie
to
Alexander Evans

1851 Alexander Evans
to
Joseph Cockrill

1863 Deed June 26, 1863 recorded in
Book 27 page 502
Joseph Cockrill
Mary Cockrill
to
C. Baker Raine

- 1863 Deed July 1, 1863 recorded in
Book 28 page 154
Charles Baker Raine
to
Mary Male
- 1900 Deed February 1, 1900 recorded in
Book 62 page 593
Mary F. Male
to
Joseph D. Mann
- 1907 Deed March 7, 1907 recorded in
Book 143 page 121
Joseph D. Mann
to
Maggie M. Mann
- 1943 Deed March 17, 1943 recorded in
Will Book 19 page 11
Maggie M. Mann.
to
Winifred S. Mann Harrison

4. Original plans and construction: Unknown.
5. Alterations and additions: Unknown.

B. Historical Events and Persons Connected with the Structure:

It is interesting to note that the land upon which this building stands was owned by Donald MacKenzie, a partner in one of the largest flour mills in Petersburg in the mid-nineteenth century, MacKenzie & Christian.

Prepared by Randall J. Biallas
University of Illinois, Urbana
August 1968

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character; This is a colonial-type building of the 1830's. It is located in part of the original city and, situated as it is in the environment, could possibly have been a service building for cluster housing in the area. Three points lend themselves to this conclusion: 1) it is centrally located in the area; 2) the building is on high

piers, unlike the other buildings in the area; 3) the entrance is along the end of the gable instead of along the side, as the others are.

2. Condition of fabric: The building is in fair condition, particularly considering the fact that it has been used as low rent housing for many years. The sagging front porch is the most significant part in disrepair.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: The building is "L"-shaped, with the leg of the "L" (an addition) extending from the right rear of the original building. The building was actually built in three stages. The first addition (butted directly against the rear of original building) is very early. The original front part (approximately 18' x 15') is 1-1/2 stories and the rear part (early addition 14' x 15') is 1 story. The recent addition (approximately 12' x 14') is also 1 story.
2. Foundations: The original building rests on large stone piers, with the first floor about 3-1/2' off the ground. All other parts of the building, including the front porch, are on brick piers and not as high off the ground. The last addition is closer to the ground than the other parts, and several steps below the level of the other rooms.
3. Wall construction: The walls are heavy timber construction with clapboard siding in the original section and in the first addition. Clapboards are badly weathered and have been tarpapered over in several places. The recent addition has modern framing and siding.
4. Chimneys: There is one brick chimney at the center rear of the original building. There are two fireplaces, one on each side of the chimney at first floor. Thus one fireplace is in the original portion, and one in the first addition. Both are flush with the wall. The inner face of the chimney is corbeled out at about 4' below the roof peak. It is raked slightly at the top and is reinforced with two chimney straps.
5. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: There are three exterior doors, all on the first floor. Two rear doors are relatively new. Front exterior door, which is paneled, is very old, and possibly original.
 - b. Windows and shutters: There is one early window left in the building. It is double-hung and has 6 lights in each sash. This window is now in the recent addition,

but was originally in the front facade of the old building. All other windows are new. There are still two original shutter latches in place on the side of the building.

6. Porches: There is one covered porch in front. It is supported on brick piers. The porch roof is hipped with a slight angle of rise and is supported by four freestanding rectangular columns.
7. Structural system: The first floor is supported by heavy beams running between the stone piers with 2" x 8" joists in the opposite direction--parallel to the front of the building. Spacing is varied but approximately 18" o.c. Structural framing at the roof is unknown due to the manner of wall and ceiling finish.
8. Roof shape and covering: There is a gabled roof on the original building and on the early addition. A flat roof covers the recent addition. The entire roof is covered with tin, ribbed--18" to 24" o.c., varying.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans: The first floor is basically two rooms, back to back, and each with a fireplace. The front room fireplace is directly opposite the front door. There is a connecting door between the rooms, to the right of the fireplace in the front room. The rear room is 6" lower than the front room, and there is another 6" drop to the new addition, which is divided into two small rooms. The attic is comprised of only one room.
2. Stairways: There is one stairway, to the right of the entrance, leading to the attic bedroom. The stairway is enclosed and makes one 90° turn to right at landing 2-1/2' above first floor level. Entrance to attic room is facing front of building. Left front window (first floor) at stair location has been removed, suggesting that stair may not originally have been in this location.
3. Flooring: All rooms have wood plank flooring covered with linoleum.
4. Wall and ceiling finish: The original and early additions have plaster covered with wallpaper and painted plaster ceilings. The recent addition has various wall finishes.
5. Doorways and doors: There are five interior doors; all are relatively new.
6. Notable hardware: Two shutter latches are still in place on

one wall, although the windows have been replaced. There are two large hooks hanging on front porch--probably lantern hangers.

7. Lighting: Modern.

8. Heating: Oil stoves, vented through fireplace flues.

D. Site:

1. General setting and orientation: The building faces east along Hurt Street on slightly sloping land. Clustered around are row houses of the same general character.
2. Outbuildings: None existing; however, according to a long-time resident of the area, the kitchen used to be a separate structure attached at rear.
3. Landscaping: Medium height trees--25 to 30 feet in area. There is a stately magnolia tree in the front yard. Sparse ground cover. No enclosures.

Prepared by John M. McRae
Project Supervisor
Historic American
Buildings Survey
July 1968

PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION

These records are part of the documentation made during the 1968 Petersburg Summer Project, undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey in cooperation with The Historic Petersburg Foundation, Inc., with financial assistance from The Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission. During the summer, records were made of twenty-two buildings in the city.

The project was under the general direction of James C. Massey, Chief, Historic American Buildings Survey. Project Supervisor was John M. McRae of the University of Florida. The recording team was composed of Randall J. Biallas, historian (University of Illinois, Urbana), and student assistant architects Michael Hamilton (University of Arizona), Thomas J. Sanford (Washington State University), and Edwin S. Smith, Jr. (Rhode Island School of Design). Photographs were made by George Eisenman.